GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2835
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
IMPORT DUTY ON AIDS AND CANCER DRUGS
Chaliha Shri Kirip

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a request to remove import duty on 60-odd anti-AIDS and cancer drugs in order to bring down prices;and

(b) if so,the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) In 2006-07, Government had received recommendation for full exemption from customs and excise duty on 27 anti-AIDS drugs and 69 anti-cancer drugs.

(b) The recommendation was examined in 2006-07 budget and 10 specified anti-AIDS, 14 anti-cancer drugs, and bulk drugs for their manufacture were provided a concessional customs duty of 5%.These drugs were also exempted from CVD equal to excise duty. With the reduction in Central Excise duty applicable to drugs and medicines from 16% to 8% in the budget 2008-09,and subsequent reduction to 4% on 7.12.2008, the import duty on all drugs has reduced further.